

FINE MOTOR SCISSOR SKILLS FOR ALL AGES





Spark creativity. Ignite artsy.

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Scissor Safety

- Scissor safety is a great place to start when teaching a child how to use scissors properly. Discuss the importance of scissor safety at the beginning of each cutting activity.

Read the following and emphasize safety for your small child.

- 1.) Scissors are a special tool with sharp edges and you should always handle them very carefully. They are not a toy and therefore, are not for play.
- 2.) Scissors are only for cutting certain things that are you are allowed to cut — nothing else. That means they are not for cutting shirts, crayons, fingers, hair, toys, pets — you get the picture!
- 3.) Avoid walking with scissors and never — ever — run with scissors. If you must walk with scissors, make sure you close the blades all the way and that you grip the blades downward in your hand, forming a tight fist around them. Expose the handles at the top of your fist. And always hold the scissors close to your side when walking with them.

Holding Scissors

- Teaching a child the proper way to hold scissors is the key to successfully cutting and preventing frustration.

Read the following as you guide your child's hand and fingers.

- 1.) Hold the special Hands-On 'No-Slip Grip' Scissors so that the handprints are facing up and you can see them. (If using another brand of scissors hold them so the top side is facing up.)
- 2.) Slide your thumb into the hole on the right side of the handle and your middle finger into the left hole. Your index or pointer finger should wrap around the scissors just at the curve where the black rubber handle meets the top of the blade. This finger will serve as a guide. Curl your ring finger and pinkie into your palm.
- 3.) Now get ready to cut by positioning your wrist so that your thumb turns upward and the handprints on the scissors (top side) are (is) now pointing towards your free hand.





Using Scissors to Cut

• Here are some additional tricks for cutting with scissors that can also help alleviate frustration.

Read and illustrate the following for your child.

1.) Always hold the scissors below your shoulder when cutting, with your elbow tucked close to your ribs and your thumb above the other fingers. Hold the scissors at least eight inches away from your face, and the tips facing away from your body. Never hold scissors with the blades parallel to your stomach. Not only will this make using the scissors unsafe, but it will also make using them more awkward.

**Tip: If your child is having difficulty remembering to keep their thumb up (above the other fingers) and their wrist turned, the following exercise can help. Tape a piece of paper to a wall — just higher than the child's eye level to ensure upward cutting. Then have the child make random cuts in the paper. This technique will automatically position the thumb and wrist correctly.*

2.) When cutting, don't try to move your scissor hand or arm; rather, turn the material that you are cutting. Put a little tension between the material and the scissors too — in other words, pull at the material while turning — at the same time slowly close the blades. Pulling and turning the material while slowly closing the blades are the key to perfectly cutting out any shape.

Practice with our NIFTY cutting-practice printables in three levels!



Level 1 / Novice: little to no experience handling scissors.



Level 2 / Competent: some experience handling scissors.



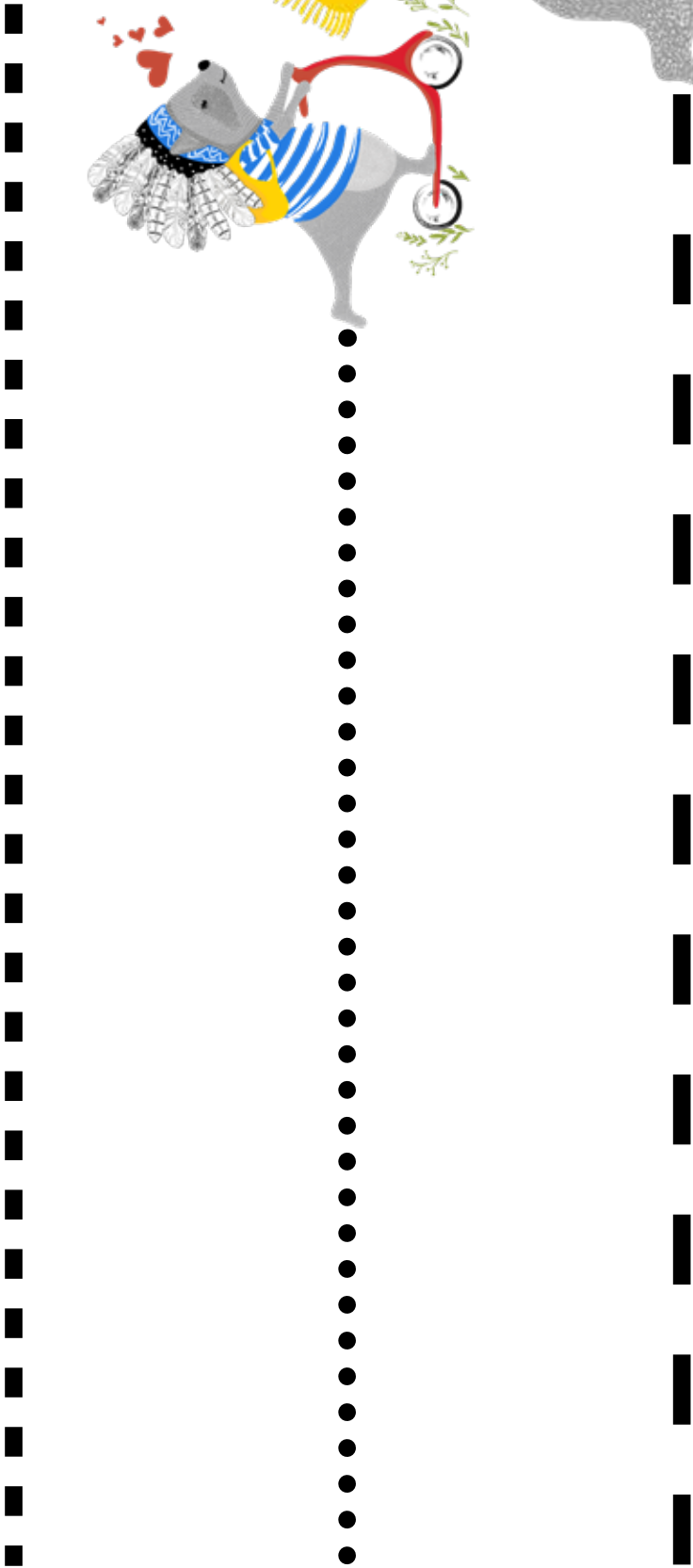
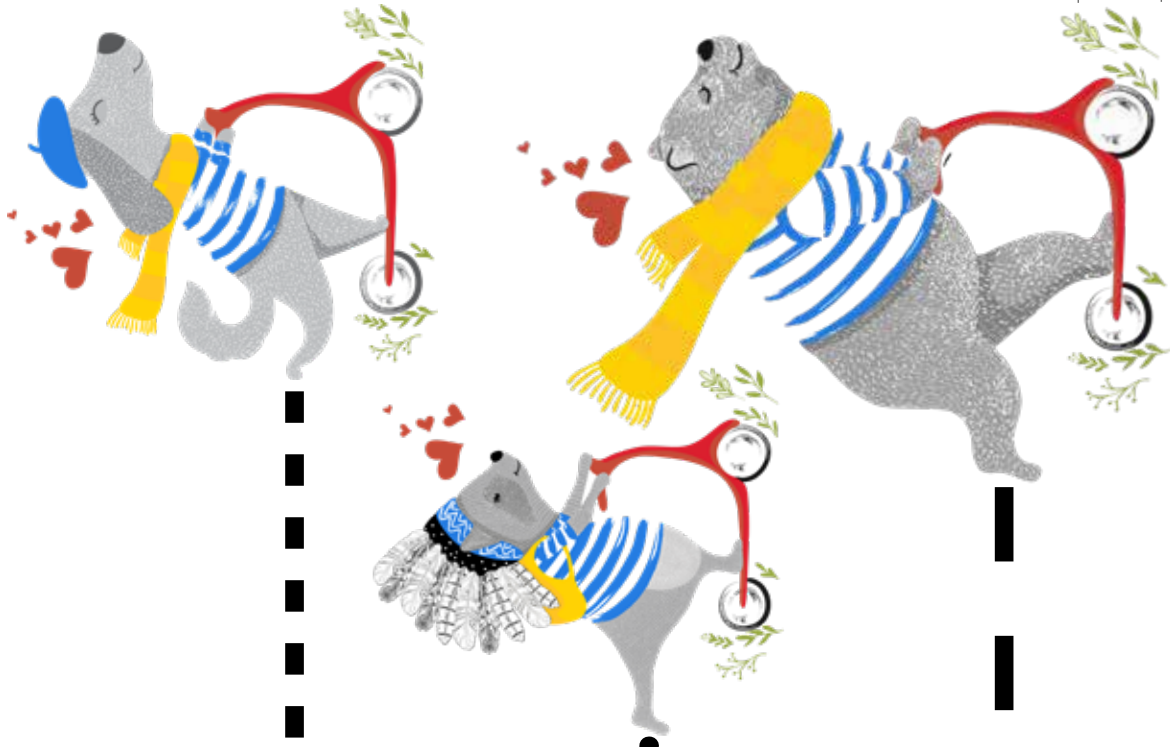
Level 3 / Proficient: experience handling scissors, needing practice.

FINE MOTOR SCISSOR SKILLS (LEVEL 1)

Cut Along the Dotted Lines

Scotering with the three amigos is fun!

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FINE MOTOR SCISSOR SKILLS (LEVEL 1)

Cut Along the Dotted Lines

It's a fun scooter ride with Dalton Dog!

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FINE MOTOR SCISSOR SKILLS (LEVEL 1)

Cut Along the Dotted Lines

It's a fun scooter ride with Piper Porcupine!

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FINE MOTOR SCISSOR SKILLS (LEVEL 1)

Cut Along the Dotted Lines

It's a fun scooter ride with Bundy Bear!

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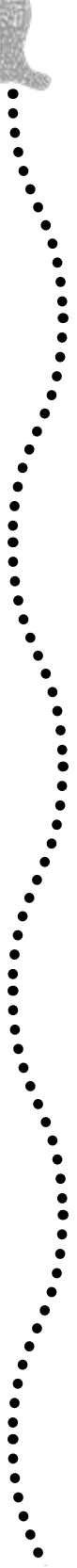
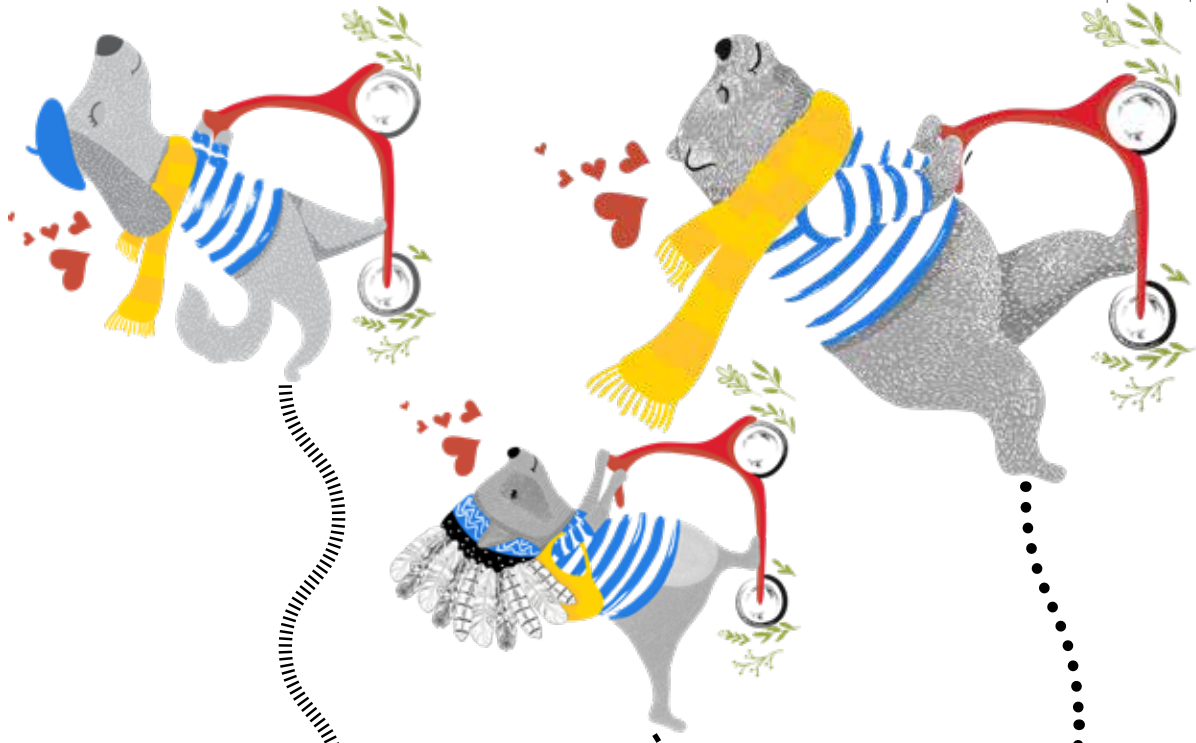


FINE MOTOR SCISSOR SKILLS (LEVEL 2)

Cut Along the Dotted Lines

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FINE MOTOR SCISSOR SKILLS (LEVEL 2)

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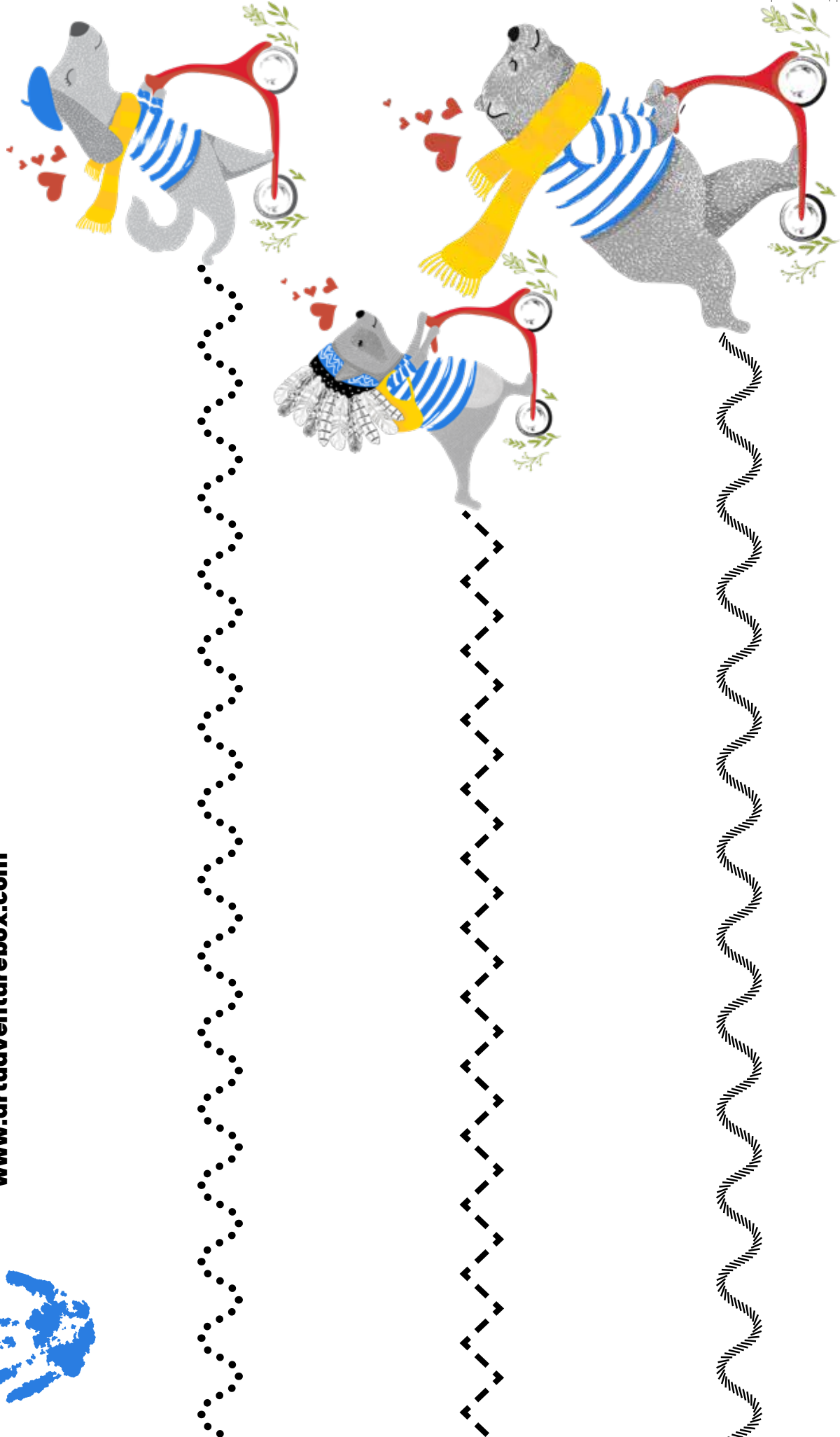


FINE MOTOR SCISSOR SKILLS (LEVEL 3)

Cut Along the Dotted Lines

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FINE MOTOR SCISSOR SKILLS (LEVEL 3)

Cut Along the Dotted Lines

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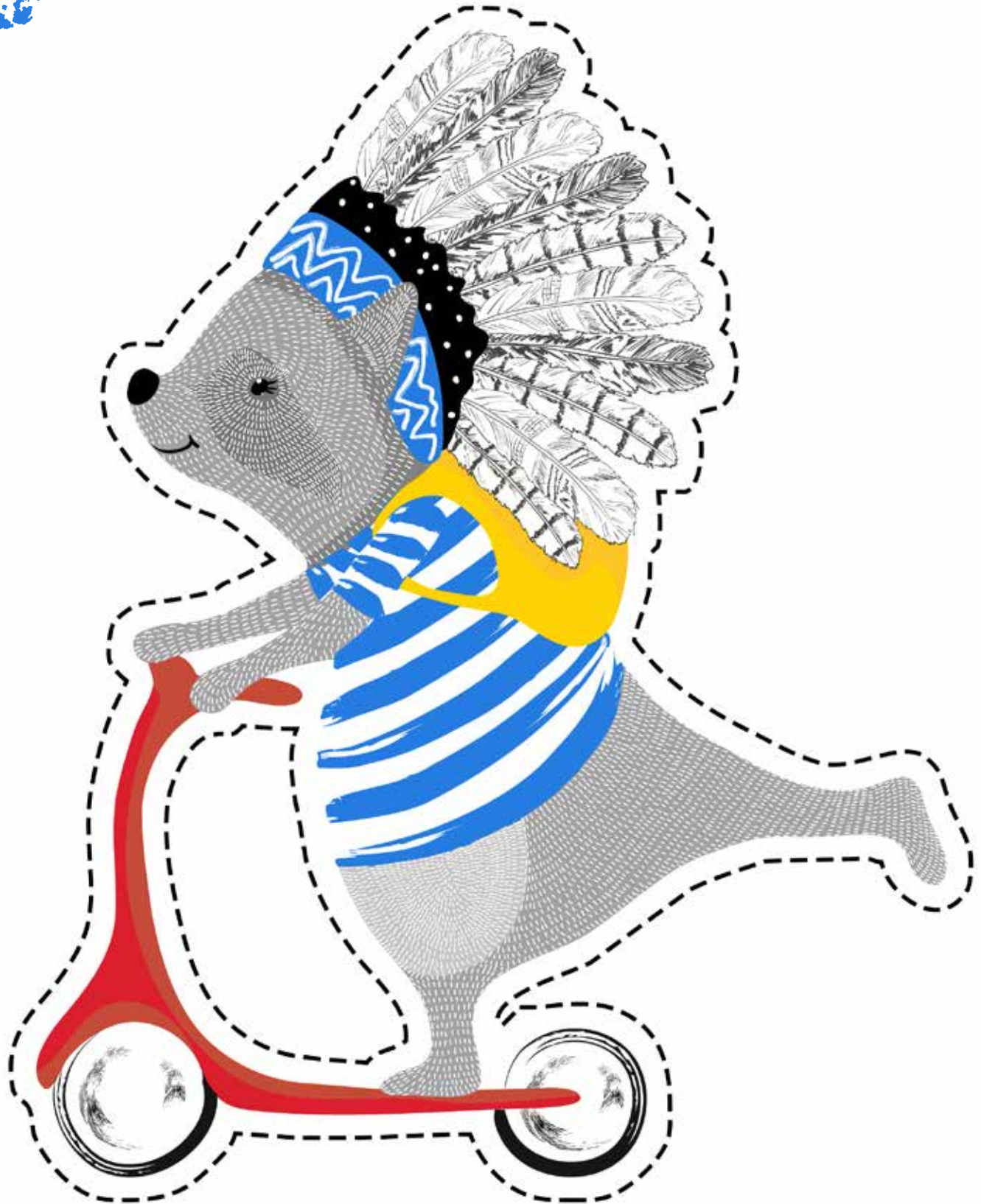


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